(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO YADAV): (a) to (d) The news article referred to the consultations the Government of India had with the Governments of States/UTs and with other stake holders on 23rd, 24th and 29th of October, 2002. Article 20 the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), provides for commencement of negotiations from 1st January, 2000, in order to continue the reform process initiated with the coming into force of AoA with effect from 1st January, 1995, with the objective of establishing a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system. However, due to continued high levels of domestic support and export subsidies in developed countries, tariff and non-tariff barriers and TRQs on products of export interest to developing countries like India, meaningful market access has been denied to developing countries and international prices for agricultural commodities remain depressed. In the negotiations, India has sought substantial reduction of all forms of trade distorting domestic support by developed countries, elimination of export subsidies other than marketing and transport support provided by developing countries for exports, and substantial improvements in market access in products of export interest to developing countries. India has also proposed that food and livelihood concerns of developing countries should be protected. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded before 1-1-2005.

Oilseeds and Rice Production

3146. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic Mustard industry has projected that the Kharif 2002-2003 oilseeds production, including the short early Rabi Toria crop, would be around 40-41 lakh tonnes only, including the Rabi crop;

(b) if so, whether a survey has established that the area under Mustard cultivation is going down annually, as a result of a compendium of reasons;

(c) whether India's rice production this year would also drop by 10 million to 80 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of mustard oil and rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The 40th All India Convention on Oilseeds, Oil-trade and Industry held in November, 2002 in New Delhi, has placed the trade estimates of production of Kharif oilseeds during the year 2002-2003 at 97.2 lakh tonnes in respect of nine cultivated oil seeds. The Central Organization for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT) has estimated Toria production at 1.5 lakh tonnes for 2002-2003 season. The First Advance Estimates released by the Government in November, 2002, has placed the Kharif production of nine oilseeds for 2002-03 at 98.9 lakh tonnes.

(b) As per the statistic maintained by the Government, the area under repeseed/mustard remained in the range of about 6 to 7 million hectares during the period 1990-91 to 1999-2000. The area under repeseed/mustard declined to 4.47 million hectares and 4.83 million hectares respectively in 2000-01 and 2001-02. However, the yield per hectare, which declined from 960 kg. per hectare in 1999-2000 to 941 kg. per hectares in 2000-01 improved to 1106 kg. per hectare in 2001-02. A number of factors like fluctuations in domestic and international prices, adverse weather conditions, demand-supply situation both at home and abroad, affect the area under oilseeds, including mustard oil.

(c) As per First Advance Estimates, the production of Kharif rice during 2002-03 is likely to be 66.86 million tonnes. Assuming that this year's Rabi rice production would not be less than last year's Rabi rice production of 12.25 million tonnes, total rice production during 2002-03 is estimated at 80 million tonnes which is lower by 12 million tonnes as compared to the previous year's production.

(d) There are no quantitative restrictions on the import of mustard oil and other edible oils like palm oil. To boost production and productivity of oil seeds, the Government have taken a number of steps which include the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme, Technology Mission on Oilseeds to harness processing and management technology, providing Minimum Support Prices, regulation of import duty structure, etc. As regards rice, the stock position is comfortable. Emphasis will continue to be laid on measures like incentives to producers through

Minimum Support Prices, procurement by public agencies, intensification of research efforts etc., so as.to increase production and productivity of rice in the country.

NCDC loans for Co-operatives

3147. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Co-operative Development Co-operation proposed that for extending loans, preferential treatment would be given to States, which undertook co-operative reforms;

(b) if so, the details of reforms and the States yet to introduce reforms in co-operative laws;

(c) the number of co-operatives in rural areas, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) the details of financial assistance sanctioned to co-operatives by NCDC during the last three years, especially in rural areas, year-wise, State-wise, separately;

(e) whether NCDC can sanction funds directly to co-operatives; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The required information is at Statement-I. (*See* below)

(d) The required details are at Statement-II. (*See* below)

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) As a result of passage of the NCDC (Amendment) Act, 2002, (No. 45 of 2002), NCDC can sanction funds directly to cooperatives without Government guarantees subject to the furnishing of security by the borrowing cooperative society to the satisfaction of NCDC. The NCDC guidelines for direct funding are given at Statement-III.